

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAB-01 IO-14 EUR-25

DRC-01 /118 W

----- 074336

O R 091502Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3835

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: PERES INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 7

REF: FBIS TEL AVIV 071120Z SEPT 74

1. SUMMARY: IN COMPREHENSIVE INTERVIEW ON IDF RADIO

SEPT 7, DEFMIN PERES FIELDDED QUESTIONS ON NEARLY ALL TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST TO ISRAEL. SEVERAL OTHERGOI MINISTERS SURPRISED, AND NOT ENTIRELY PLEASED, WITH INTERVIEW ON EVE OF CABINET SESSION DESIGNED TO LAUNCH RABIN ON VISIT TO US. REF FBIS REPORT CONTAINS SUMMARY AND FULL TEXT BEING POUCED. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS MADE BY PERES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN PERES, RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD. THE EGYPTIANS DECLARE THAT THEY AR NOT PREPARED TO MAKE PEACE BUT--TO TRANSLATE THE TERM-- A RECONCILLIATION. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEACE AND RECONCILIATION SOMETIMES AS BIG AS BETWEEN PEACE AND NO-PEACE. THE PALESTINAINS--WHO ARE NOT ALL OF THE SAME ILK; EVEN ARAFAT
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SOMETIMES APPEARS TO BE A MODERATE, IF COMPARED WITH JIBRIL,

HABASH OR HAWATMA--EQUATE A JUST PEACE WITH THE ANNIHILATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THE SYRIANS, WHO ATTACKED ISRAEL TIME AND AGAIN, ARE NOT ONLY DEMANDING THE ENTIRE GOLAN HEIGHTS, BUT ALSO 'A JUST SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINAIN PROBLEM'. THAT 'JUST SOLUTION' IS, ONCE AGAIN, THE PARTIAL OR COMPLETE OBLITERATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

3. EGYPT. SINCE EGYPT DOES NOT WANT COMPLETE PEACE, WE HAVE TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH ITS HALF WAY, BOTH WITH REGARD TO PEACE AND TO AREA. EGYPT MAKES COMPLETE SETTLEMENT OR COMPLETE PEACE WITH ISRAEL CONDITIONAL ON SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND OTHER ARAB STATES AND IT EPXECTS US TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL. BUT WHAT EGYPT IS SUGGESTING IS SOMETHING LUKEWARM(POSHER) FROM A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, AND THUS WE CAN ALSO SUGGEST TO IT SOMETHING VERY LIMITED FROM A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT.

4. JORDAN. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR INTERIM STEPS OR TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH JORDAN. THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY IN SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN LIES IN FACT THAT THER ARE TWO PALESTINSIN DEPLOYMENTS--THE JORDANIAN DEPLOYMENT AND THE PLO DEPLOYMENT. EVENTUALLY, ONE OF THESE TWO TRENDS WILL PREVAIL AND IT WILL THEN BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH IT. HOEPFULLY, THE TREND WHICH WILL PREVAIL WILL BE THAT OF HUSSEIN, WITH HUSSEIN WE HAVE TO REACH A COMPLETE SETTLEMENT AND TRUE PEACE. BOTH WE AND HE DO NOT HAVE MUCH ROOM FOR INTERIM STEPS AND TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS BECAUSE THE AREA IN QUESTION IS NARROW AND PACKED WITH RESIDENTS WHO ARE FULL OF EXPECTATIONS.

5. THERE ARE THREE MAIN POINTS FOR A SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN:1) JORDAN RIVER SHOULD SERVE AS SECURITY BORDER; 2) RIGHT OF JEWS TO SETTLE IN JDEA AND SAMARIA; AND3) FINDING POLITICAL FRAMEWORK ACCORDING TO WHICH THE ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHEMENT OF WEST BANK RESIDENTS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR NATIONAL AFFILIATION, WHILE DEFENSE WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR TRUE SECURITY NEEDS.

6. SYRIA. WE HAVE TO STAND FIRM AND FORTIFIED AGAINST SYRIA. THESE ARE EXTREMIST, MILITARISTIC PEOPLE WHO THROUGHOUT THE EXISTENCE OF OUR STATE HAVE NOT CEASED TO ATTACK US, WHILE WE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG AND HAVE NOT GIVEN THEM ANY PROVOCATION...THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE ARMING AND EQUIPPING THEMSELVES AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE AND WIITH THE BEST SOVIET ARMS. AGAINST THESE PEOPLE WE HAVE TO STAND ALERT AND PREPARED.

7. ON POSSIBLE REOPENING OF HOSTILITIES AND SITUATION WHICH MIGHT CONSTITUTE 'CASUS BELL' WE WILL ASSURE ANYONE WISHING TO

SURPRISE US THAT WE WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE. THIS ENTIRE CONCEPT, ACCORDING TO WHICH ONE SIDE IS PERMITTED TO SURPRISE, TO EMPLOY INITIATIVE AND DECEPTION AND GO TO WAR--AND THEN, IF THEY WIN, ALL IS WELL, AND IF THEY LOSE, ISRAEL MUST RETURN EVERYTHING --I FIND UNACCEPTABLE.. AS FOR 'CASUS BELL' --IT

IS CUSTOM AMONG NATIONS THAT ANYONE WHO DISTURBS THE PEACE, VIOLATES AGREEMENTS, RESTRICTS UNHINDRED MOVEMENT OF SHIPPING AND AIRCRAFT...ANYONE TAKING UP ARMS DOES OF COURSE, CREATE A BELLIGERENT SITUATION AND BREACHES THE PEACE.

8. ON FUTURE CONTACTS BETWEEN IDF AND SOVIET FORCES. I VISUALIZE IDF IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUNTRY'S BORDERS, AND NOT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOVIET ARMY. IDF DID NOT SET OUT TO MEET THE SOVIET FLEET ON THE HIGH, STORMY SEAS. BUT IF THE RED--OR ANY OTHER--FLEET APPROACHES OUR SHORS, IDF IS READY TO DEFEND TERRITORIAL WATERS. AND WHEN IDF DEFENDS THOSE WATERS AGAINST VIOLATIONS --IRRESPECTIVE OF VIOLATORS IDENTITY--I BELIEVE IT HAS EVERY PROPSECT OF SUCCEEDING AS IT DID. END PERES.

9. COMMENT COMING ON DAY BEFORE CABINET SESSION SCHEDULED TO REVIEW RANGE OF ISSUES PRIOR TO RABIN'S US VISIT, PERES' WIDE-RANGING REVIEW CAME AS A SURPRISE. SENIOR GOI OFFICIAL TOLD US PERES' REMARKS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS GOVERNMENT POLICY AND THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS THAT THEY WERE MADE WHEN THEY WERE. HE INTIMATED THAT FONMIN ALLON WAS UNHAPPY, WE NOTE THAT AT SEPT 8 CABINET MEETING(SETTEL) SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS ALSO TOOK PERES TO TASK.
VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE PLANS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV05160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740250-0239
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740962/aaaacafy.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBIS TEL AVIV 071120Z SEPT 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERES INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 7
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, (PERES, SHIMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005